

## Farmers' Department.

**EARLY POTATOES.**—There is a large class of persons who value good, well-ripened early potatoes more than any other vegetable. The potato is a universal favorite. We have never met more than half a dozen people who did not like it. It is easily raised, cheap, and has just about the proper proportion of bulk and nutritive properties to make it one of the most wholesome articles of diet that come upon the table. In cases of sickness, where the patient is convalescent, a roasted potato that is nicely and eaten as soon as cooked, is highly relished, and is as harmless, perhaps, as any food that can be taken.

As the common, every-day food of the table, the potato stands next to bread. When well cooked, most children will take half their entire food of the potato, especially if they can have a little milk or cream with the mash, and will become vigorous and free from humors after a year's use of them, cooked in various forms.

Every family—in the country at least—should have them plentifully from the first of August, and by taking some pains may begin to use them by the fourth of July. The first thing to be considered is the soil. It should be a comparatively dry and sandy soil, rather than a wet black loam. A fresh or new soil is greatly preferable—one recently covered with grass, or what is still better, scrub oaks, sweet fern, blackberry and huckleberry bushes. Such a soil when well plowed and harrowed will be light and will abound with the alkalies and silicates earths that the potato requires. The situation selected should be an open, but a warm one—along the side of an old fence or wall, where bushes have been growing for half a century, or less, and exposed to the morning sun. On such a soil, and in such a situation, the plants will start early and come to maturity rapidly; and if the variety planted be a good one, the tubers grown will have a sweet and agreeable flavor. Some of the varieties used for early planting are the *Jersey Wonder*, *White Chippendale*, which come quite early, the *Early Blue*, and others. But the *Early Blue* is the earliest of the garden potatoes, of fine quality, and one of the best for forcing for early crops. If the ground was not prepared last fall, it should be made ready as soon as the frost is out, so that it can be plowed six inches deep, and the potatoes planted.

In order to facilitate the crop, some persons set a barrel of seed by the kitchen stove about the middle of March, where they remain until sprouts have started half an inch in length. In this case the top of the potatoes must be covered with loam or a cloth to keep out the light. Others lay a bushel or two of seed upon grass ground, in some warm spot, sufficiently deep to keep them warm. They will sprout readily in this condition if they are kept moist and warm, and can be got at to plant more easily than from a barrel. Others, still, who only require a few start them in hot beds.

Planting should take place just as soon as the soil is dry enough to admit of working it. Plant if there is a dry surface sufficient to cover with, even if the frost is a foot deep below. Before planting, prepare liberal holes and fill them with a shovelful of horse stable manure. Cover this with a sprinkling of fresh damp mold, and place the "set" or seed on this, and cover three inches deep. Mr. J. Knight says that if the "sets" are placed with their leading buds upward, a few and very strong early stems will be produced; but if the position be reversed many weak and later shoots will arise, and not only the earliness, but the quality of the produce be depreciated.

By putting the above suggestions in practice, every person may expect a fine dish of nearly ripened potatoes for his Fourth of July dinner, with his roasted lamb and green peas, and an abundant supply after the 20th of the same month. How can the farmer add to the comfort and health of his family in a better way?—*New England Farmer*.

**PEAS AND POTATOES.—STRANGE RESULT.**—A French agriculturist made last year a singular experiment, the success of which has surpassed all expectations. He planted four potatoes, two of which received each a bean, and the other two each a pea. In a very short time the peas and beans brought forth very vigorous shoots, which furnished to their proprietor four copious dishes. But the most remarkable thing was that the potatoes sprouted wonderfully and were not touched by disease. Still more, the tubers multiplied themselves extraordinarily; the first top yielded thirty-eight tubers; second thirty; the third twenty-nine; and the fourth twenty-eight—all very healthy.

We have planted sixteen potatoes, all of which have received a pea and a bean. Never have we noticed a more vigorous vegetation. The shoots of the potatoes, as well as those of the peas, have universally averaged a height of from five to six feet. The tubers, which were numerous, measured, for the most part, from sixteen to eighteen inches in circumference. The whole production is four tubers and a quarter. As to the peas, the husks were also very numerous, and most of them could not ripen, because they found themselves enveloped in a mass of shoots and leaves. The tubers had been planted too near each other.

This experiment has been made by an agriculturist of Isle d'Orleans. He has planted three potatoes, all of which had received a pea. These three potatoes yielded forty-seven tubers, quite remarkable for size. This agriculturist is so well satisfied with the result of his experiment, that he has decided to follow this same method for all his potato planting the next year.—*Exchange*.

**FEEDING CALVES.**—A friend of ours says the *Genesee Farmer*, who has great success in raising calves on skimmed milk and "corn pudding," adopts the following method: He never lets the calf suck the cow, but teaches it to drink out of a pail. When the calf is three or four days old, he takes a teaspoonful of corn meal and pours a pint of hot water over it, stirs it up, and lets it stand for a few minutes. He then pours on three or four quarts of skimmed milk, or as much as the calf can drink. In the mean time he has a piece of iron heating, which, when red hot, he thrusts in the milk. This "scorching the milk" he considers of the greatest importance when calves are fed on skimmed milk—it prevents it from scorching the calves. As the calf grows older he increases the quantity of corn-meal. When three weeks old, he gives a pint at least, at each meal. The milk at first is only twelve hours from milking, but as the calf grows older, the milk may be allowed to stand 24 to 36 hours before skimming.

**EARLY TURNIPS.**—Among the great variety of wholesome vegetables which can be grown favorably in this climate, many esteem the common flat turnip as among the best. When crisp, tender and juicy, it certainly is entitled to considerable merit. In this condition it will cook readily, and dressed with a little salt, pepper and sweet butter, is an acceptable and nutritious food. To secure the qualities mentioned, it should be sown early—that is, as soon as the soil is in a favorable condition, on new ground if possible, and as fast as the plants appear sprinkle them with ashes, plaster, snuff, or anything else that will tend to keep the little black fly from destroying them. If they escape this ordeal, keep all weeds away from them, and if the season is favorable they will make a surprising growth, and perhaps become fit for the table in the early part of July. The ground should be hoed occasionally, and the plants thinned so as to stand nine or ten inches apart. In this position they will not grow so large as those that are sown later, but will be more tender, crisp and juicy. We have raised a flat, purple-top variety which is excellent, which has recently been introduced in England.

**GOOD WOOL.**—The first requisite for good wool is fineness, which is governed by and produced under the laws of stock-raising, as the breed of variety, climate, the summer and winter food of the sheep and their management.

The second requisite is softness. This depends on the character of the wool or only section that fills the tube of the hair or fibre. This wool crystallizes in the fibre after shearing, and renders it brittle and harsh, or soft and silky, according as its character is formed by those matters which govern its growth.

The last requisite is the length of the wool or of the fibre composing it, and this is governed by climate changes and the condition of the animal.

**HOW TO WALK.**—In a graceful human step the heel is always raised before the foot is lifted from the ground, as if the foot were a part of a wheel rolling forward; and the weight of the body, supported by the muscles of the calf of the legs, rests for a time on the forepart of the foot and toes. There is then a bending of the foot in a certain degree. But when strong wooden shoes are used, or any shoe so stiff that it will not yield and allow the bending of the foot, the heel is not raised at all until the whole foot rises with it, so that the muscles of the calf are severely used, and in consequence, soon dwindle in size and almost disappear. Many English farm servants wear heavy, stiff shoes, and in London it is a striking thing to see the drivers of country wagons with fine robust persons in the upper part, but with legs that are fleshless spindles, producing a gut that is almost awkward and unmanly. The brothers of these men, who are otherwise employed, are not misshapen. What a pity that, for the trifling saved, fair nature should be thus deformed! An example of this kind is seen in Paris. There, as the streets have few or no side pavements, and the ladies have to walk almost constantly on tiptoe, the great action of the muscles of the calf has given a conformation of the limb and foot to match which the Parisian belles proudly challenge all the world—not aware, probably, that it is a defect in their city to which the peculiarity of their form is in part owing.

**THE REBEL DEBT.**—The Richmond *Sentinel* reports that \$196,883,000 of the rebel debt had been funded and taken by the different States, while a large portion of the Confederacy remains to be heard from. It estimates the total amount taken at \$250,000,000.

The rebels had a fearful problem to solve, but they took hold of it with desperate vigor, and it is not impossible that they may greatly improve their condition. After all, however, they lack this essential—credit.

Vigor on the part of our legislators in any decent proportion to that of the rebel congress, with the credit of the United States, would bring us back to a specie basis almost within the limit of some recent predictions.

Children who do not like entorol can have it prepared in the recent Paris fashion—the quantity of oil prescribed is placed in a pipkin over the fire, and an egg broken into it and stirred up. When cooked, a little salt or sugar, or current jelly should be added. The patient cannot possibly detect the medicine, and will likely cry for some more of the mixture.

A printer named Winn, who died at Rochester, England, recently was heard to mutter to himself a few moments before his death. "I am on my last skiff; I am writing to a paragraph, and I suppose I'll have to wait for death to put in a period."

## BREVITIES.

—Why is faith like honey? Because it consists of bee-honeyings.

—If I persuade an allopathic physician to cut a walk through my garden, do I thereby make him a homeopath?

—Why is talking with the fingers like a man who is always changing his opinions? Because it is a specimen of human mite-ability.

—Why is a humming bird like a fashionable confectioner? Because he sends in a long bill for the sweets.

—A row among the inmates of a jail, whatever shape it may take, is always a *quod-erango*.

—It is said that railroads drive away the game, but if you travel much by rail you will find no end of *deer tracks*.

—Why are invalid soldiers like blighted trees? Because we know their condition by their *sick leaves*.

—An able physiologist has written that one fifth of the human body is composed of phosphorus. Pencil remarks that this most likely accounts for the number of *matchboxes made*.

—"I'm on the trail of a deer," as the fellow said when he stepped on one of the silk sweeping machines in Broadway.

—(Rough on Johnny!) "John," said a father to his son one day, when he caught him shaving the down off his upper lip, "don't throw your shaving water out where there are any bare-footed boys, for they might get their feet pricked."

—A chap who was married by a Worcester (Mass.) clergyman some years since, and failed to pay the usual fee, has recently remitted five dollars to the man who destroyed his life of single blessedness, "as a slight symptom of returning conscience for so ungracious an act."

**MCGOWAN BROTHERS,**  
1 Doors North of the American House,  
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Keeps constantly on hand

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Repaired at short notice, and prices made satisfactory.

To those having **COAL** or **WOOD**

**FURNACES**, we would say that we have

engaged the services of one of the most experienced workmen in this State.

Furnaces set, Pipes put up and Old Furnaces

cleaned and made to operate as well as new.

Iron, Lead, or Zinc Pipes, laid and warranted.

**CASH** paid for 3,000 Dairy Shins—Poles

on, well salted, free from cuts, and dry.

**MCGOWAN BROTHERS,**

March 17, 1864.

**PROSPECTUS**

**OF**

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St. Albans, March 16, 1864.

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**FURNITURE AND CROCKERY**

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**FURNITURE,**

Consisting of Parlor Suits of Black Walnut, in

lending and hair cloth; Sofas, Lounges, Easy

Chairs, What Nots, Hat Trees, Centre, Card,

Oral, Side, Marble Top, Extension, and Toilet

Tables, with a large assortment of common

Furniture, of the best styles, and a superior quality

of finish.

**—ALSO—**

Elegantly Ornamented Chamber Suits,

With and without Marble.

Gold Band, Gold Scroll, Braid Fruit, Flowers,

&c., &c., on hand and painted to order,

with any desired pattern.

**BLACK WALNUT, OAK, AND CHESTNUT**

**Chamber Suits,**

finished in oil, and any number of pieces de-

sired, with or without Marble Tops.

A full stock of cane and wood-clad Chairs, war-

ranted of superior durability from the best material.

**MATRASSES:**

Hair, Hunk, Palm, Excelsior, &c., also Feathers.

**COFFIN TRIMMINGS,**

Of all kinds, constantly on hand and for sale.

**PLATES ENGRAVED TO ORDER.**

**Sign and Ornamental Painting,**

Neatly and promptly executed.

All the above named Goods will be sold at the

lowest living prices; any changes in which

will be based on manufacturers' lists, and not

depend on whether our neighbors may, or may

not, have, for the time being, a stock of the same

Goods.

**REMEMBER!**

ENTRANCE TO THE FURNITURE WARE

ROOMS,

Through the Crockery Store,

NOT UP STAIRS.

St. Albans, March 16, 1864.

**—ALSO—**

The subscriber begs leave to inform the citizens

of this place that, in view of the fact that he is

## NEW GOODS

—AT—

**MARVIN'S!**

—

We have just received from market a fresh supply

of Dry Goods, consisting in part of

**FANCY DRESS GOODS**

De Laines,  
Challies, Poplins,  
Mourning Dress Goods, both the

new and plain Alpacaes, Ginghams,  
Lawns, Chambrays, Prints, Sheetings, Shir-

tings, Stripes, Denims, Ticks, &c., &c., &c.

**SHAWLS,**

Sun Umbrellas, Balmoral Skirts, Hoop Skirts,  
Bonnet Ribbons, Trimming Ribbons, Taffeta

and Satin Ribbons, black and fancy Vel-

vet Ribbons, a choice lot of

**WHITE GOODS,**

Black and Bonnet Silks,  
Bangs Trimmings,  
Trimming Ribbons,  
Yankee Notions,  
Gloves and Hosiery,  
Bonnets,  
Millinery Goods,  
Cloakings,  
Cloths,  
Cost, Vest, and Pant Trimmings,  
Umbrellas, &c., &c.

**—ALSO—**

Choice Groceries,

Such as Brown, Coffee, Crushed and Granulated

Sugar; Tea, Coffee, Tobacco—fine cut,  
plug, and smoking; Rice, Spice,  
Ginger, Pepper, Cloves, Nut-

megs, Starch, Salsaparilla,  
Mustard, and a va-

riety quality of

**SYRUP.**

Brooms, Matches, &c., &c.

All of the articles above enumerated are offered

for sale at the lowest cash prices.

Please call at our NEW LOCATION, at the

Store formerly occupied by S. & W. W. Gar-

corn.

St. Albans, March 28, 1864.

**—AT—**

**BAILEY'S**

—

Having just returned from Market we are now

opening a large and well selected stock of

**Fancy and Staple Dry Goods,**

Consisting in part of

**Dress Goods,**

**Wool and Common De Laines,**

**PRINTS,**

**BLEACHED AND BROWN COTTONS,**

**Denims, Ticks and Stripes,**

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Of every description;

**CRASH AND HUCK TOWELING,**

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